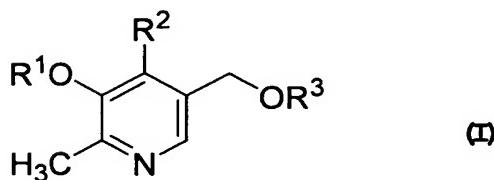


What is claimed is:

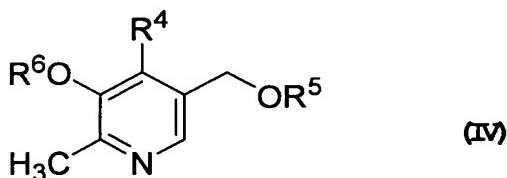
1. A compound represented by the following general formula (I) or a salt thereof:



wherein R¹ represents a glycosyl group, a phosphate group, or a cyclic phosphate group bound to R²; R² represents -CH₂OH, -CHO, -CH₂NH₂, -CH₂amino acid residue, or -CH₂-PO₃H₂; and R³ represents hydrogen atom, or -PO₃H₂.

2. The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 1, which is selected from the group consisting of pyridoxine 3-β-glucoside, pyridoxine 3-α-glucoside, pyridoxamine 3-β-glucoside, pyridoxamine 3-α-glucoside, pyridoxal 3-β-glucoside, pyridoxal 3-α-glucoside, pyridoxine 3-β-galactoside, pyridoxine 3-α-galactoside, N-(4-pyridoxylmethylene)-L-serine 3-β-glucoside, N-(4-pyridoxylmethylene)-L-serine 3-α-glucoside, pyridoxine 3-phosphate, pyridoxine 3,4'-cyclic phosphate, and N-(4-pyridoxylmethylene)-L-serine 3-phosphate, or a salt thereof.

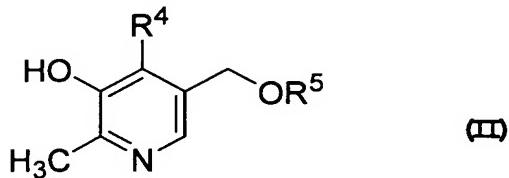
3. A compound represented by the following general formula (IV) or a salt thereof:



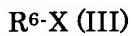
wherein R⁴ represents -CH₂OH, -CHO, or -CH₂NH₂, or represents -CH₂OH, -CHO, or -CH₂NH₂ protected with a protective group; R⁵ represents hydrogen atom, a protective group of hydroxyl group, a phosphate group, or a protected phosphate group; and R⁶ represents a glycosyl group which may have a protective group, or a phosphate group which may have a protective group.

4. A method for preparing a compound represented by the general formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claim 1, which comprises the step of reacting a compound

represented by the following general formula (II) or a salt thereof:

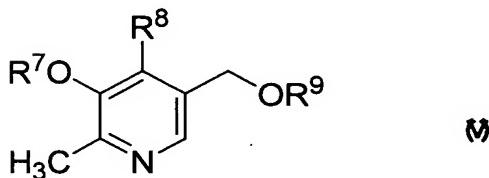


wherein R⁴ represents -CH₂OH, -CHO, or -CH₂NH₂, or represents -CH₂OH, -CHO, or -CH₂NH₂ protected with a protective group; and R⁵ represents hydrogen atom, a protective group of hydroxyl group, a phosphate group, or a protected phosphate group, with a compound represented by the following general formula (III):



wherein R⁶ represents a glycosyl group which may have a protective group, and X represents a leaving group, to obtain a compound represented by the general formula (IV) according to claim 3, and if necessary, the step of deprotecting the compound represented by the aforementioned general formula (IV).

5. A composition for a cosmetic, a medicament, a foodstuff, and/or a feed comprising a compound represented by the following general formula (V) or a salt thereof:



wherein R⁷ represents a glycosyl group, a phosphate group, a sulfate group, or a cyclic phosphate group bound to R⁸; R⁸ represents -CH₂OH, -CHO, -CH₂NH₂, -CH₂amino acid residue, or -CH₂-PO₃H₂; and R⁹ represents hydrogen atom, or -PO₃H₂.

6. A method for stabilizing a vitamin contained in a composition for a cosmetic, a medicament, a foodstuff, and/or a feed by adding a compound represented by the general formula (V) or a salt thereof mentioned in claim 5 to the composition.

7. A composition for a cosmetic, a medicament, foodstuff, and/or a feed containing a compound represented by the general formula (V) or a salt thereof mentioned in claim 5 and at least one kind of vitamin, wherein stability of the vitamin is improved.

8. The composition for cosmetics according to claim 5, which is a whitening agent, an anti-aging agent, and/or an agent for suppressing wrinkle formation by exposure to ultraviolet light.

9. A composition comprising (A) a compound represented by the general formula (V) according to claim 5, and (B) one or more kinds of substances selected from the group consisting of a whitening agent, an antioxidant, an antiphlogistic, a circulation accelerator, a cell activation agent, and an ultraviolet absorber, which is used as a whitening agent, an anti-aging agent, and/or an agent for suppressing wrinkle formation by exposure to ultraviolet light.

10. A whitening agent containing (A) a compound represented by the general formula (V) mentioned in claim 5, and (B) arbutin.